

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

ITEM

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DECISION

TOPIC **FY2009 Water Trails Grant Projects**

The Iowa DNR water trails development program was developed to support linear, on-water trail projects on Iowa waterways. The Commission has adopted a final rule, 571 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 30, to implement this program. The Department received eight applications requesting \$135,415. The Department's annual water trails development budget is \$50,000. This year, the program will support the development of \$96,981 worth of total projects. The recommended state fiscal year 2009 awards, totaling \$50,000, as determined by scoring committee members including three Department staff and two Iowa citizens, are as follows:

Water Trail	Sponsor	Description	DNR funding recommended	Project total cost	Rank
Maquoketa River Water Trail -- Jackson County	Jackson CCB	This project will construct and/or refurbish 8 canoe accesses on the 53.1-mile Maquoketa River Water Trail through Jackson County.	\$10,980	\$23,450	1
West Nishnabotna Water Trail	Pottawattamie CCB	This project will construct 5 new canoe accesses on the 25-mile West Nishnabotna Water Trail through Pottawattamie County.	\$22,200	\$37,590	2
North Skunk River Water Trail	Jasper CCB	Constructs a low-impact canoe access in Kellogg, and creates a 13.2-mile water trail, including signage.	\$8,374	\$11,164	3
Iowa River Water Trail (Iowa City to Mississippi)	Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation	Develops water trail using existing accesses with signage, kiosks, maps, and online information.	\$7,640	\$10,583	4

Clear Creek Water Trail	City of Coralville	Develops water trails signage for a 4.9-mile water trail on Clear Creek. A portion requested that is not eligible under administrative rules (brush clearing) will not be funded.	\$806	\$14,194	5
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The Department recommends entering into grant agreements with the above-mentioned parties to accomplish the projects identified in their respective applications.

The lowest-ranked projects include Maple River Access at Grays Landing (\$10,427), Maple River Access at Schoenjahns Wildlife Area (\$10,793), and Charles City Kayak Park (\$50,000). In the event any of the ten approved projects listed above are not able to utilize all or part of the funding awarded, the Department requests that the Commission approve entering into an agreement to fund all or a portion of these lower-ranked projects in the order listed.

Ken Herring, Administrator
Conservation and Recreation Division
March 13, 2008